

## Ask the U.S. Embassy

January 30<sup>th</sup>

*I need to renew my U.S. visitor visa. Do I have to wait in line for an interview, or can I just drop off my paperwork?*

If you are renewing a 10-year visitor visa that expired less than 4 years ago, you may be able to skip the interview. While all applicants between the ages of 14 and 79 must appear at the Embassy for fingerprinting, those renewing their visitor visas may schedule an expedited appointment that will allow you to bypass the visa interview.

This renewal program is only available to individuals who are renewing full-validity visas. For Jamaicans and Caymanians, a full-validity visitor visa is valid for 10 years, and a full-validity C-1/D crewmember visa is valid for 5 years. If you had a limited visa that was valid for only a few months or a couple of years then you must go through the regular application process, which includes an interview with a consular officer. Similarly, if your visa expired more than four years ago, you may not participate in the expedited renewal program.

To take advantage of this expedited service, you must schedule a “renewal” appointment, rather than a regular appointment. This can be done either by phone or through our self-service website. For complete instructions about scheduling an appointment, please visit our website, [http://kingston.usembassy.gov/how\\_to\\_apply2.html](http://kingston.usembassy.gov/how_to_apply2.html). On the day of your appointment, you must bring your DS-160 confirmation form, fee-paid receipt, old visa, and current passport to the Embassy. C1/D applicants should also bring a copy of their employment letter. After fingerprinting, you will be allowed to leave the Embassy, while other applicants remain in line for an interview. The consular section will contact you by phone if there are any questions or concerns about your application.

The Embassy strongly encourages renewal applicants to take advantage of this service and to share this news with friends and family. Many applicants wait at the Embassy for an interview when they could have bypassed the line. Don't let this happen to you; save yourself some time by scheduling a renewal appointment!